of them, perhaps for the purpose of allowing boats to pass, made high and ascended by steps. Others have several arches. Many are constructed of huge stones laid longitudinally and supported by piers. There are some suspension bridges, but these are usually over the mountain torrents in the West.

A familiar feature of Chinese cities is the *p'ai lou* or *p'ai Jang,* the memorial arch. At least under the Ch'ing, these could be erected only by imperial permission. They are in honor of distinguished officials, of local worthies noted for their virtue or learning, for centenarians, for families who have lived together for several generations, for women who won celebrity by a life of virtuous widowhood from youth to old age, or for those memorable for other meritorious action. Sometimes they are not commemorative, but simply decorative. As a rule they consist of four pillars supporting transverse stones and presenting three passages, the central one wider than the others. Often, however, they have only one passage, and a good many have five.

Graves are inevitable concomitants of a Chinese landscape. Some are quite elaborate. Imperial tombs generally cover a fairly large area, and with their great courts, their avenues, their numerous buildings, and their sense of dignified repose, are very impressive, even in decay.

Many travellers declare Peiping to be architecturally the most majestic city they have ever seen. That is not solely or perhaps entirely because to the Westerner it appears exotic. It is rather because it is so fittingly constructed for the capital of an Empire which professed to rule all of civilized humanity. Its high walls with the-higher towers above the gates seem in

themselves sym-
bols of dignity and power. Its distances and its broad main
streets, some of them straight, so in contrast to many of the other
old cities of the world, give a sense of spaciousness which dust,
dirt, and squalor cannot obscure. Its temples, especially that con-
structed for the worship of Heaven, bespeak an order which
sought to harmonize the forces of all nature for the welfare of
all mankind. But especially do the imperial palaces, even in their
present emptiness and air of departed glory, create the impression
of empire. Placed in the center of a city which in itself is impos-
ing, they symbolize a power to which all the rest is but ancillary.
To the envoy bringing the homage of a tributary state the entire